

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of printing a value bearing indicium (VBI), the method comprising the steps of:

generating a message digest by hashing relevant information;
generating a textual representation of a digital signature from the message digest;
generating a 2-D bar code comprising the relevant information;
generating the indicium, wherein the indicium includes the textual representation of the digital signature and the 2-D bar code; and

communicating the indiciu ~~digital signature~~ from one of a plurality of stateless ~~cryptomodules~~ cryptomodules to one of a plurality of remotely located user computers, each stateless cryptomodule being programmable to service any of the plurality of remotely located user computers;

~~generating a textual representation of the digital signature;~~
~~generating a 2-D bar code comprising the relevant information.~~

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the VBI is a ticket.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the VBI is a coupon.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the VBI is a traveler's check.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the VBI is currency.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

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the representation of the digital signature further includes a right side;
the 2-D bar code further includes a left side; and
the representation of the digital signature right side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code left side.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:
the representation of the digital signature further includes a top side;
the bar code further includes a bottom side; and
the representation of the digital signature top side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code bottom side.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:
the representation of the digital signature further includes a bottom side;
the bar code further includes a top side; and
the representation of the digital signature bottom side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code top side.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:
the representation of the digital signature further includes a right side;
the bar code further includes a left side; and
the representation of the digital signature right side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code left side.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the VBI is postage for a mail piece.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, the relevant information including one or more of an indicium version number, an algorithm identifier, a certificate serial number, a postage security device manufacturer identifier, a postage security device model identifier, a postage security

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device serial number, an ascending register value, a postage amount, a date of mailing, a licensing postal code, a software identifier, a descending register value, and a rate category.

12. (Currently Amended) A data processing system adapted to print a [[VBI]] value bearing indicium (VBI), the data processing system comprising:

one or more processors, at least one of which is associated with a stateless cryptomodule and another of which is associated with a user computer located remotely from the stateless cryptomodule, the stateless cryptomodule being one of a plurality of stateless cryptomodules, each stateless cryptomodule programmable to service any remotely located user computer; and

one or more memories operably coupled to the processors and having program instructions stored therein, the processors being operable to execute the program instructions, the program instructions including:

generating a message digest by hashing relevant information;

~~generating a digital signature from the message digest;~~

generating a text representation of [[the]] a digital signature; [[and]]

generating a 2-D bar code comprising the relevant information; and

generating the indicium, wherein the indicium includes the textual representation of the digital signature and the 2-D bar code.

13. (Original) The data processing system of claim 12, wherein:

the representation of the digital signature further includes a right side;

the 2-D bar code further includes a left side; and

the representation of the digital signature right side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code left side.

14. (Original) The data processing system of claim 12, wherein:

the representation of the digital signature further includes a top side;

the bar code further includes a bottom side; and

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the representation of the digital signature top side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code bottom side.

15. (Original) The data processing system of claim 12, wherein:

the representation of the digital signature further includes a bottom side;

the bar code further includes a top side; and

the representation of the digital signature bottom side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code top side.

16. (Original) The data processing system of claim 12, wherein:

the representation of the digital signature further includes a left side;

the 2-D bar code further includes a left right; and

the representation of the digital signature left side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code right side.

17. (Original) The data processing system of claim 12 wherein the data processing system is a closed metering system.

18. (Original) The data processing system of claim 12 wherein the data processing system is an open metering system.

19. (Currently Amended) A data processing system comprising:

a plurality of stateless cryptomodules and a plurality of remote user computers in communication with at least one of the plurality of stateless cryptomodules, each stateless cryptomodule being programmable to service any of the plurality of remote user computers, wherein the data processing system is adapted to print a VBI;

a processor; and

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a memory operably coupled to the processor and having program instructions stored therein, the processor being operable to execute the program instructions, the program instructions including:

generating a message digest by hashing relevant information;

~~generating a digital signature from the message digest;~~

generating a text representation of ~~the~~ a digital signature; [[and]]

generating a 2-D bar code comprising the relevant information; and

generating the indicium, wherein the indicium includes the textual representation of the digital signature and the 2-D bar code.

20. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein:

the representation of the digital signature further includes a right side;

the 2-D bar code further includes a left side; and

the representation of the digital signature right side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code left side.

21. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein:

the representation of the digital signature further includes a top side;

the 2-D bar code further includes a bottom side; and

the representation of the digital signature top side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code bottom side.

22. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein:

the representation of the digital signature further includes a left side;

the 2-D bar code further includes a right side; and

the representation of the digital signature left side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code right side.

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23. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein:
the representation of the digital signature further includes a bottom side;
the 2-D bar code further includes a top side; and
the representation of the digital signature bottom side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code top side.
24. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the VBI is postage for a mail piece.
25. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the VBI is a ticket.
26. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the VBI is a coupon.
27. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the VBI is a traveler's check.
28. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the VBI is currency.
29. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the VBI is postage for a mail piece.
30. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium embodying computer program instructions for execution by a computer, the computer program instructions adapting a computer to provide a value bearing indicium to a user via a computer network, the computer program instructions comprising:
generating a message digest by hashing relevant information;
generating a textual representation of a digital signature from the message digest;
generating a 2-D bar code comprising the relevant information;

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generating the indicium, wherein the indicium includes the textual representation of the digital signature and the 2-D bar code; and

communicating the indiciu~~m~~ ~~digital signature~~ from one of a plurality of stateless ~~cryptom~~~~modules~~ cryptom~~modules~~ to one of a plurality of remotely located user computers, each stateless cryptomodule being programmable to service any of the plurality of remotely located user computers;

~~—generating a textual representation of the digital signature; and~~

~~—generating a 2-D bar code comprising the relevant information.~~

31. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 30, wherein:
the representation of the digital signature further includes a right side;
the 2-D bar code further includes a left side; and
the digital signature right side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code left side.
32. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 30, wherein:
the representation of the digital signature further includes a top side;
the 2-D bar code further includes a bottom side; and
the representation of the digital signature top side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code bottom side.
33. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 30, wherein:
the representation of the digital signature further includes a left side;
the 2-D bar code further includes a right side; and
the representation of the digital signature left side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code right side.
34. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 30, wherein:
the representation of the digital signature further includes a bottom side;

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the 2-D bar code further includes a top side; and
the representation of the digital signature bottom side is adjacent to the 2-D bar code top side.

35. (Currently Amended) A [[VBI]] value bearing indicium (VBI) comprising:
a 2-D barcode including relevant information; and
a text representation of a digital signature generated from a message digest, the message digest generated using a secure hash algorithm to hash the relevant information, wherein the 2-D bar code excludes the digital signature.

36. (Original) The VBI of claim 35, wherein:
the VBI is postage for a mail piece; and
the relevant information is mailing information.

37. (Original) The VBI of claim 36, the mailing information including one or more of an indicium version number, an algorithm identifier, a certificate serial number, a postage security device manufacturer identifier, a postage security device model identifier, a postage security device serial number, an ascending register value, a postage amount, a date of mailing, a licensing postal code, a software identifier, a descending register value, and a rate category.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each stateless cryptomodule being programmable to service any of the plurality of remotely located user computers includes accessing user data from a database.

39. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 12, wherein each stateless cryptomodule being programmable to service any of the plurality of remotely located user computers includes accessing user data from a database.

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40. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein each stateless cryptomodule being programmable to service any of the plurality of remote user computers includes accessing user data from a database.

41. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 30, wherein each stateless cryptomodule being programmable to service any of the plurality of remotely located user computers includes accessing user data from a database.